hostage situations, a Crisis Management Group is set up immediately which is tasked with the constant monitoring and handling of the situation in close consultation with concerned agencies, our diplomatic missions abroad and with foreign governments. The Cabinet Secretary also holds a parallel set of inter-ministerial meetings, as required, to take appropriate decision. The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs may also meet, as necessary, to review the situation and take appropriate decisions. This mechanism remains in force until the crisis ends. It needs to be pointed out that no two hostage situations are entirely similar and different responses may be required depending upon specific circumstances to reach the objectives of Government policy.

Traditional Digital Knowledge Library

4547. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Traditional Digital Knowledge Library is part of activity/ objective of SAARC Documentation Centre, New Delhi;

(b) if so, date of initiation and reason for initiating this activity;

(c) whether above activity would adversely effect patent right of traditional knowledge of member countries and National Interest, will result in patent piracy;

(d) whether a detailed Committee consisting of legal and other experts would be constituted before further initiating above project;

(e) whether SAARC Documentation Centre, New Delhi has deviated from original objective of Centre; and

(f) whether a detailed inquiry be initiated on activities of above Centre for last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) SAARC documentation Centre (SDC), New Delhi is concerned with the Documentation activities of the region, which include modern science and traditional knowledge. SDC conducted a Workshop on Establishment of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library for SAARC Member Countries in New Delhi on 27-28th December, 2004, which recommended, *Inter alia,* a framework for creation

of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library for each country and a legal framework on Traditional knowledge. The recommendations of the Workshop were adopted at the 1st Meeting of the SAARC working Group on Intellectual Property Rights (including Traditional Knowledge), held in New Delhi on 29th December, 2004 Recommendations of the Workshop have been communicated to the Member Countries. Based on the response of the Member Countries, a view on initiation of these activities shall be taken by the Governing Board of SDC comprising the representatives of member countries.

(c) No, Sir. The objective of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library is to protect Traditional Knowledge of each country.

(d) Not Applicable. The recommendations of the Workshop have already been adopted at the First Meeting of the SAARC Working Group on Intellectual Property Rights (including Traditional Knowledge), held in New Delhi on 29th December, 2004.

(e) and (f) No Sir. The SAARC Documetnation Centre, New Delhi has not deviated from its original objective. Therefore, the question of initiating an inquiry into the activities of the Centre for the last five years does not arise.

Pak PM'S offer to stop Missile test

†4548. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Pakistan had offered to stop Missile tests during his visit to India; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) (a) Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr Shaukat Aziz visited India from November 23 to 24, 2004. No such offer to stop missile test was made by Prime Minister of Pakistan.

(b) Does not apply.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.